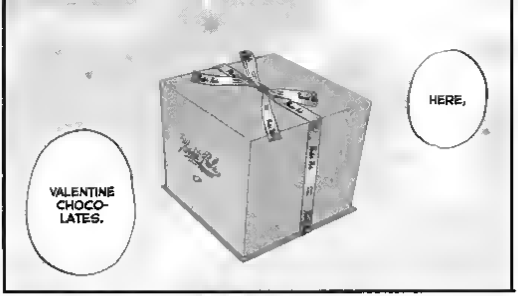
Chapter 58 x That Reminds Me



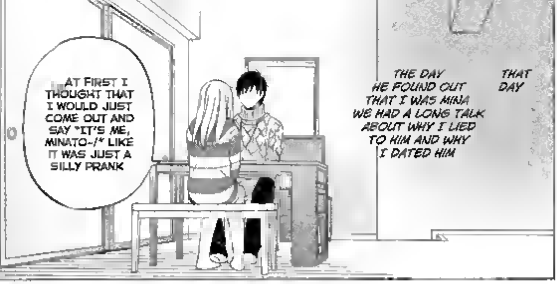
SFX: MUNCH

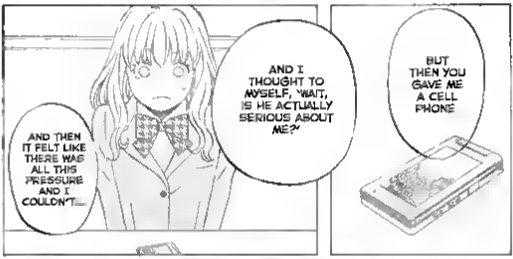
SFX SCREAMS
うぉ おぉぉ
THIS IS MY TROPHY FROM THE BATTLE I FOUGHT AT THE DEPARTMENT STORE WITH NAKA-SAN AND EVERYONE.
YEAH.
OH YEAH, TODAY'S VALENTINE'S DAY, HUH.
THAT REMINDS ME,
SOUNDS GOOD, THANKS
LET'S MAKE SOME COFFEE AND EAT THEM TOGETHER TONIGHT!
I SPLURGED AND GOT A REALLY NICE ONE
EH...
THIS IS THE SECOND TIME THAT I'VE PROPERLY RECEIVED VALENTINE CHOCOLATES FROM YOU

WHEN MINA AND I WERE DATING, YOU MADE ME A CHOCOLATE CAKE, RIGHT?
NOT THAT.
BUT LAST YEAR, THEY WERE JUST GOBBLED UP BY KATSURA KUN.

THAT'S WHY THIS IS THE SECOND TIME.
It's kind of nostalgic.
OH MY GOSH... I FORGOT ALL ABOUT THAT!
I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT

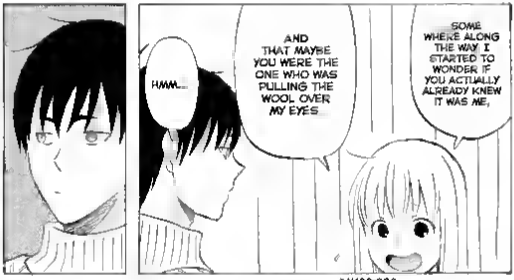
AFTER THAT DAY...
TOORU AND I HAVE BEEN ABLE TO RESPOND TO EACH OTHER BETTER


AT FIRST I THOUGHT THAT I WOULD JUST COME OUT AND SAY "IT'S ME, MINATO-!" LIKE IT WAS JUST A SILLY PRANK
THE DAY WE FOUND OUT THAT I WAS MIRA
WE HAD A LONG TALK ABOUT WHY I LIED TO HIM AND WHY I DATED HIM
THAT DAY


AND I THOUGHT TO MYSELF, "WAIT, IS HE ACTUALLY SERIOUS ABOUT ME?"
AND THEN IT FELT LIKE THERE WAS ALL THIS PRESSURE AND I COULDN'T...
BUT THEN YOU GAVE ME A CELL PHONE

TOO-RU...
I MET SOME-ONE WHO LOOKED JUST LIKE YOU.
IT WAS THE FIRST TIME THAT I EVER THOUGHT THAT I MIGHT BE ABLE TO FALL IN LOVE WITH SOME-ONE OTHER THAN YOU.
DES-PER-ATE?
IT'S BECAUSE I WAS SO DESPERATE THEN.

SO THEN I STARTED TO THINK THAT MAYBE I COULD FIX YOUR PLAY BOY HABITS THROUGH MINA.
AND I JUST CONTINUED PRETENDING TO BE MINA.
But in the end it was just you in cosplay.
Uh sorry about that


HMM...
AND THAT MAYBE YOU WERE THE ONE WHO WAS PULLING THE WOOL OVER MY EYES.
SOME WHERE ALONG THE WAY I STARTED TO WONDER IF YOU ACTUALLY ALREADY KNEW IT WAS ME.

* ¥100,000

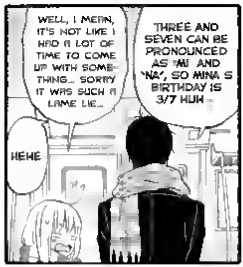
Hehe.
WAAAHHH! PLEASE FORGIVE ME!!
WHAT ELSE WAS THERE? A NECKLACE AND A RING AND...
AHHHHH! AT THAT TIME I WAS DYING ON THE INSIDE. I FELT SO BAD FOR THAT...! I'M SO SORRY!
10万↑
I WOULDN'T GIVE YOU SUCH AN EXPENSIVE WALLET AS A JOKE THOUGH.
SINCE THEN,
EEEEK!

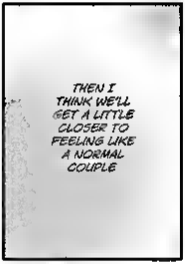
AND EVERY TIME, I'LL APOLOGIZE PROFUSELY, AND TOORU WILL JUST LISTEN TO ME WITH A SMILE
AND THEN WE'LL TALK ABOUT HOW THAT TIME WAS THIS OR THAT.
SOMETIMES HE'LL START WITH "THAT REMINDS ME",

AH...
I HAVE TO GO TO MY PART TIME JOB.
OKIE DOKES
DO YOU HAVE ANY PLANS ON THE 22ND? FOR YOUR BIRTH DAY

MARCH 3RD
MINA'S BIRTH-DAY'S COMING UP TOO.
OH YEAH I GUESS IT IS
THAT REMINDS ME
REAL-LY?
I'LL GO BUY A CAKE TOO.
THEN I'LL MAKE YOU DINNER THAT DAY, OKAY?
YEAH!

IT'S OKAY, I'M NOT MAD.


WELL, I MEAN, IT'S NOT LIKE I HAD A LOT OF TIME TO COME UP WITH SOMETHING... SORRY IT WAS SUCH A LAME LIE...
THREE AND SEVEN CAN BE PRONOUNCED AS "MI" AND "NA", SO MINA'S BIRTHDAY IS 3/7 HUH
HEHE


THEN I THINK WE'LL GET A LITTLE CLOSER TO FEELING LIKE A NORMAL COUPLE

SOMETIMES IT CAN BE KIND OF AWKWARD TALKING ABOUT EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENED BETWEEN US
WITH EACH PASSING DAY, ALL OF MY LIES UP UNTIL NOW ARE SLOWLY UNRAVELING
BUT IF WE KEEP GOING LIKE THIS AND FINDING OUT THE TRUTH,

WOW! THANKS YOU GUYS!
THANK YOU VERY MUCH~!
Here!
These are your Valentine chocolates from all of us~!

Hehehe, I don't really have a whole lot to do until graduation rolls around, and it's always a lot of fun anyway~
I AGREE.
THANKS FOR DOING THIS EVERY YEAR
SFX: WISTFUL
DON'T YOU WORRY, WE'LL CARRY ON THIS CIRCLE'S VALENTINE'S TRADITIONS...!
Choco-lates that everyone can enjoy!!
Aww!
SO I GUESS THAT MAKES THIS THE LAST TIME THAT I'LL BE ABLE TO SPEND VALENTINE'S DAY WITH ALL OF YOU LIKE THIS
THAT'S RIGHT, GRADUATION'S COMING UP...
しんみり…
OH YEAH, I WAS DATING KARASUMA-KUN AROUND THIS TIME LAST YEAR, WASN'T I
ONLY BECAUSE HE THREATENED ME THOUGH
Have your brother bring the chocolates to everyone at U University too, okay~
I'm counting on you, Aoi-chan.
OKAY~

SFX. CLACK(X3)
I WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ABLE TO IMAGINE SOMETHING LIKE THIS IN MY WILDEST DREAMS LAST YEAR
AND THE FACT THAT I'M GOING TO BE ABLE TO CELEBRATE HIS BIRTHDAY WITH HIM IS ALMOST TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE
TO THINK THAT NOW I'M ACTUALLY DATING TOORU...
SFX. OPENS
OH, WHAT DO WE HAVE HERE? COULD THESE POSSIBLY BE VALENTINE CHOCOLATES?
Oh, there's some for you too Rei-sama.
GREETINGS LADIES AND GENTLEMEN!
It's kinda small
PUNY
HERE

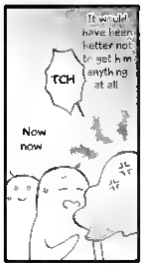
AND SO THROUGH YOUR GREAT CONSIDERATION FOR ME, YOU PICKED OUT SOMETHING THAT COULD BE EASILY CARRIED
I SEE
TRULY INCREDIBLE
EVERYONE KNEW THAT NO MATTER HOW MANY CHOCOLATES I REFUSED, I WOULD STILL END UP WITH MORE THAN I CAN CARRY

HEHE

SFX: SPARKLE

OH NO, REALLY IT'S NOTHING-
THE OVERWHELMING AMOUNT OF KINDNESS WRAPPED UP IN THIS BITE-SIZED CANDY... I'M TOUCHED!

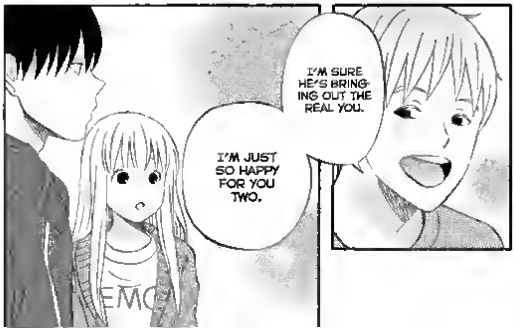
I'M BACK


It would have been better not to get him anything at all
TCH
Now now

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TOORU~!!
SFX: POP(X2)
WOAH.
KA-TSURA KUN'S HERE TOO
I HAD HIM HELP ME SET UP
No prob!
I DON'T MEAN TO BE A THIRD WHEEL-- I'LL GET OUT OF YOUR WAY PRETTY SOON HERE!
You're not a third wheel I'm glad you came
YAAAY!

YEAH, YOU'RE MORE MELLOW NOW
HUH ME?
I FEEL LIKE YOU'VE CHANGED A LITTLE SINCE YOU'VE START-ED DATING TOORU.
YOU USED TO SEEM SO STANDOFF-ISH WHEN WE WERE IN HIGH SCHOOL

YOU KNOW,


I'M SURE HE'S BRINGING OUT THE REAL YOU.
I'M JUST SO HAPPY FOR YOU TWO.

THANKS FOR HAVING ME OVER YOU GUYS~ BYE~
BYE~!

BUT TOORU'S STILL SO HARD TO READ THAT I CAN'T REALLY TELL IF HE'S CHANGED AT ALL.
AHA HA!

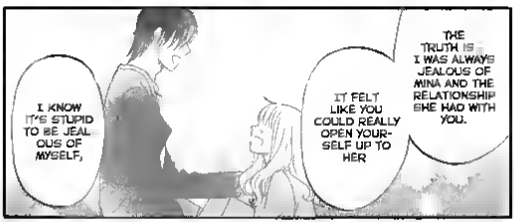
HAVE I REALLY CHANGED THAT MUCH?

IF I HAD TO DESCRIBE IT, I'D SAY THAT YOU SMILE MORE. I GUESS?
Here's the tea
OH,
THAT'S NOT REALLY THE KIND OF THING THAT I WOULD NOT CE

I FEEL LIKE I'M ACTING THE SAME AS USUAL THOUGH

YOU SEEMED DIFFERENT
IT'S JUST THAT I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT HOW WHEN WE WERE DATING AS MINA AND TOORU...
YEAH?
KATSURA-KUN SAID THAT YOU HAVEN'T REALLY CHANGED MUCH, RIGHT?
WELL,
...
UH
I MEAN, YOU WERE MORE ... LIKE A PUPPY DOG
YOU WERE ALWAYS CLINGING TO ME AND WANTING TO CUDDLE
YEAH, I GUESS
UH.
YOU SAID THAT I SEEMED LIKE HOLY LAND',
BUT DOES THAT MEAN THAT YOU'VE NEVER THOUGHT ABOUT WANTING TO DO ANYTHING WITH ME?

I DON'T WANT YOU TO TREAT ME LIKE I'M MADE OF GLASS.
I'M NOT AS PURE AS YOU'RE MAKING ME OUT TO BE. LOOK AT ALL THE LIES I'VE TOLD...


I KNOW IT'S STUPID TO BE JEALOUS OF MYSELF,
IT FELT LIKE YOU COULD REALLY OPEN YOURSELF UP TO HER
THE TRUTH IS... I WAS ALWAYS JEALOUS OF MINA AND THE RELATIONSHIP SHE HAD WITH YOU.

I CAN'T JUST CHANGE OVERNIGHT...
I WASN'T ALLOWED TO THINK ABOUT YOU LIKE THAT FOR SO LONG THAT IT'S HARD

...BUT SOMETIMES I STILL FEEL THAT WAY

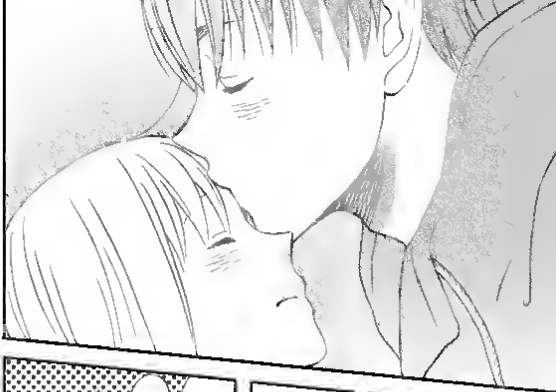
JUST BEING LIKE THIS WITH YOU, WHERE WE CAN TALK TO EACH OTHER AND LAUGH TOGETHER
IT SEEMS LIKE A MIRACLE TO ME.
I FEEL LIKE IF I START ASKING FOR MORE THEN I'LL BE PUNISHED...
PUN-ISHED...
TOORU'S OUTLOOK ON OUR RELATION-SHIP IS STILL PRETTY BLEAK, HUH...
Ehh
HMM
BE SIDES,
I FEEL LIKE I WON'T BE ABLE TO STOP ONCE I START!
I WON'T BE ABLE TO TREAT YOU GENTLY...
TOO-RU...
AND I'M SCARED OF HURTING YOU...

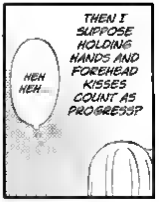
Th-
THIS LIAR ISN'T SUCH A DELICATE PERSON, YOU KNOW!

SFX BAM

I'M NOT GOING TO GET HURT THAT EASILY.
I'M YOUR GIRL-FRIEND, SO IT'S OKAY IF YOU DO THE THINGS YOU WANT TO DO

THE NEXT STEP AFTER HOLDING HANDS IS


A KISS ON THE FOREHEAD?
YEAH.
WHAT ARE YOU, TWELVE?

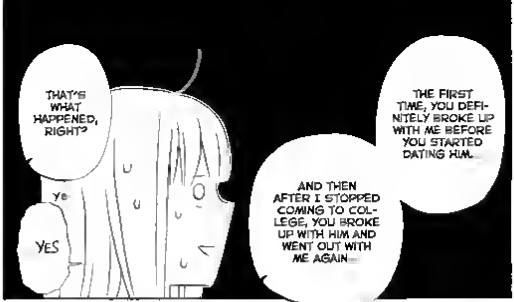

THEN I SUPPOSE HOLDING HANDS AND FOREHEAD KISSES COUNT AS PROGRESS?
HEH HEH...

WELL, I GUESS OUR PARENTS GOT MARRIED WHEN WE WERE ABOUT TWELVE.
IF I ASSUME THAT HIS EMOTIONS HAVE BEEN FROZEN IN TIME SINCE THEN,
AND NOW THAT WE'RE GOING OUT WITH EACH OTHER, HE'S FINALLY MOVING FORWARD.
STARS

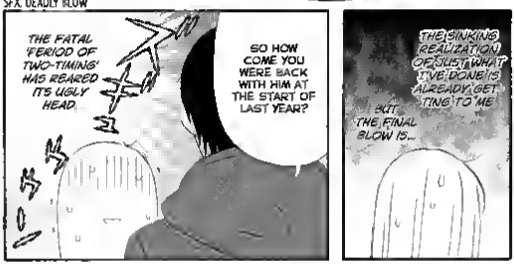
WHAT A BIG TWELVE YEAR OLD...

THAT REMINDS ME...
THAT'S RIGHT
I'M SURE ONCE WE'VE TALKED THROUGH EVERYTHING AND CLEARED UP ANY LIES THAT ARE LEFT, THEN WE'LL...
IT'S NOT LIKE I HAVE A LOT OF EXPERIENCE EITHER, SO MAYBE IT'S A GOOD THING THAT WE'RE TAKING IT SLOW...

WELL... I WAS JUST THINKING
I FEEL LIKE WITH EVERY LIE THAT GETS RESOLVED I GET A LITTLE CLOSER TO TOORU
WHAT YOU GOT FOR ME?
...OVER-LAP...?
THAT, YOU KNOW, THERE WAS A LITTLE OVERLAP WITH WHEN MINA AND I WERE DATING.
AROUND THIS TIME LAST YEAR, YOU WERE GOING OUT WITH KARASUMA AND YOU WERE GOING OUT WITH ME


THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED, RIGHT?
Ye
YES
AND THEN AFTER I STOPPED COMING TO COLLEGE, YOU BROKE UP WITH HIM AND WENT OUT WITH ME AGAIN...
THE FIRST TIME, YOU DEFINITELY BROKE UP WITH ME BEFORE YOU STARTED DATING HIM...

SFX: DEADLY BLOW


THE FATAL 'PERIOD OF TWO-TIMING' HAS REARED ITS UGLY HEAD.
SO HOW COME YOU WERE BACK WITH HIM AT THE START OF LAST YEAR?
THE SINKING REALIZATION OF JUST WHAT I'VE DONE IS ALREADY GETTING TO ME
BUT... THE FINAL BLOW IS...

BUT IN THE END, KARASUMA-KUN WAS STILL A GOOD PERSON, SO I DON'T REALLY WANT TO THROW HIM UNDER THE BUS NOW
BECAUSE I DIDN'T WANT MY REAL IDENTITY TO BE REVEALED TO TOORU AND THEN THINGS KIND OF ESCALATED...
WELL, THAT'S BECAUSE...

MINATO TANATSUKI, WHO IS CURRENTLY EXPERIENCING COLD SWEATS DUE TO A PARTICULARLY DIFFICULT-TO-RESOLVE LIE
WILL SOON BECOME A WORKING MEMBER OF SOCIETY
WHAT DO I DO NOW
HELP